

# All Saints Day and Communion

## November 5, 2023



First Congregational Church of Fresno  
United Church of Christ  
2131 N. Van Ness Blvd.  
Fresno, CA 93704

Rev, Simon Biasell-Moshrefi  
Pastor

All Saints' Day and Communion Sunday  
November 5, 2023

## Our Gathering

(\*Congregation may stand | Responses: Liturgist/**Congregation/all**)

Prelude Hymn-Sing

Scott Horton, organ

Introit

"This is the Day" - D. Forrest

Chancel Choir

Welcome

Rev. Simon Biasell-Moshrefi

**\*Call to Worship**

Peter Wall, liturgist

One: Bless the Lord, O my soul. Bless the Lord.

**All: God's dominion is forever.**

One: As for us our days are grass;

**All: Like a flower of the field, we flourish for only a season.**

One: But the steadfast love of God is from everlasting to everlasting.

**All: And God's righteousness is to children's children.**

One: The grass withers and the flower fades;

**All: But the word of the Lord stands forever.**

One: Bless the Lord, O my soul. Bless the Lord.

**All: God's presence is forever.**

**\*Hymn**

"For All the Saints"

#299, pew hymnal

Remembering the Saints

Rev. Simon Biasell-Moshrefi

**Time for Discovery** [*children are invited to the chancel steps*]

**Draw the circle wide, draw it wider still;  
let this be our song — no one stands alone,  
standing side by side. Draw the circle wide.**

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## The Lord's Prayer

*Our Creator, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come;  
thy will be done;  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our debts,  
as we forgive our debtors.  
And lead us not into temptation;  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
the power, and the glory,  
forever. Amen.*

**\*Communion Hymn of Preparation** “Come Gather in This Special Place” #335 pew hymnal

## Holy Communion

**Invitation to the table**

Rev. Simon Biasell-Moshrefi

**Prayer of Thanksgiving**

**\*Hymn**

“Blest Are They”

**Scripture**

Matthew 5:1-12

Peter Wall

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

‘Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

‘Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

‘Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

‘Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

‘Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

‘Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

‘Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

'Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

'Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

**Sermon**

Rev. Simon Biasell-Moshrefi

**Sung Call to Prayer**

**Lord, listen to your children praying:**

**Lord send your Spirit in this place.**

**Lord, listen to your children praying:**

**Send us love, send us power, send us grace.**

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- ⇒ *There are two donation boxes and giving envelopes for your gifts in the Narthex (the area where an usher handed you an Order of Worship).*
- ⇒ *You can also give through the Givelify App by scanning the QR code with your smartphone camera.*
- ⇒ *BigRedChurch.org/giving/ has more instructions, links, and information about giving to the church. Thank you for supporting and joining in the ministry of this church.*

**Prayers of the Church**

Rev. Simon Biasell-Moshrefi

**Stewardship Moment**

Pete Moe

**Invitation to Generosity**

Peter Wall

**Offertory**

"How Firm a Foundation" - arr. L. Larson

Chancel Choir

**\*Doxology** (Tune: OLD HUNDREDTH)

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,**

**Praise God, all creatures here below.**

**Praise God, above, ye heavenly host.**

**Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost! Amen.**

**\*Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving**

Rev. Simon Biasell-Moshrefi

**\*Closing Hymn**

“God, We Thank You for Our People ”

#376, pew hymnal

**Benediction**

Rev. Simon Biasell-Moshrefi

**\*Blessing Song**

**“Go Now in Peace”**

Go now in peace, never be afraid;  
God will go with you each hour of ev’ry day.  
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true;  
know God will guide you in all you do.  
Go now in love and show you believe.  
Reach out to others so all the world will see  
God will be there, watching from above.  
Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.  
**Amen. Amen. Amen.**

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**Postlude**

“Now Thank We All Our God” - arr. A. Travis

Scott Horton, organ

*It is our tradition to be seated for the Postlude.*

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***Please join us for refreshments in the Fellowship Hall***



# This Week at Big Red

## Monday, November 6

- ♦ 5:00pm: Yoga - Room 1

## Tuesday, November 7

- ♦ 6:00pm: M.O.M. - Minturn Chapel

## Wednesday, November 8

- ♦ 8:00am: Bible Study - Zoom
- ♦ 4:00pm: Yoga - Room 1
- ♦ 6:00pm: Handbell rehearsal - Music Room
- ♦ 7:00pm: Chancel Choir rehearsal - Sanctuary

**Grapevine submissions must be received no later than end of day November 15 for publication in the December edition.**

## Thursday, November 9

- ♦ 10am, 2pm & 6pm: Meet & Greet Pastor Simon - Parlor (call to reserve a spot)

## Friday, November 10

- ♦ **Office will be closed in observance of Veterans' Day**

## Saturday, November 11

- ♦ 9:00am to 3:00pm: Holiday Boutique - Fellowship Hall & Courtyard

## Sunday, November 12

- ♦ 9:00am: Roots and Branches - Fireside Room
- ♦ 10:00am: Worship Service - Rev. Davena Jones, Guest Pastor - Sanctuary
- ♦ 10:00am: "Toucan Sunday" - Sanctuary
- ♦ 11:00am: Coffee Hour

## Upcoming Dates to remember

- \* **Holiday Boutique - Nov 11**
- \* **BRC Pantry "Free Food Saturday" - Nov 18**
- \* **Thanksgiving Luncheon - Nov 19**
- \* **Church Council Meeting - Nov 21**
- \* **First Sunday of Advent - Dec 3**

# **First Congregational Church of Fresno**

2131 N. Van Ness Blvd., Fresno, CA 93704 | (559) 227-8489

## **Pastor**

Rev. Simon Biasell-Moshrefi

## **Music Director/Organist**

Scott Horton

## **Caretaker/ Event Coordinator**

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Karisa Garza

Brad Jenkins

## **Assisting in Today's Service**

Organist: Scott Horton

Liturgist: Peter Wall

Ushers: Bruce Owdom, Sue Karibian, Bob McParland

Technician: Karisa Garza

Acolytes: Sarah and Selena

Communion Servers: Peter Wall, Sue Northcross,  
Janet & Robbyn Mosley, Catherine English

Coffee Hour: Church Life

## **FCCF Open and Affirming Statement**

We believe that all people are sacred creations of a loving God. We affirm the diversity that exists among us. We strive to answer the call of Christ by extending his love, compassion and acceptance to everyone. In this spirit, we open our family of faith to people of every religious background, sexual orientation, family composition, physical and mental ability, race, age and gender.

As Christians, we experience God's reconciling love. In response we stand with those who suffer discrimination, isolation and alienation.

We welcome all people to participate fully in our church's life and ministry. We celebrate the variety of talents and perspectives which flow into our spiritual community, continuing to enrich us in ways we could not have predicted or envisioned.



Heb. 12:1

William W. How, 1864; alt.

1 For all the saints who from their labors rest, who to the  
 2 You were their rock, their refuge, and their might: you, Christ, the  
 3 Still may your people, faithful, true, and bold, live as the  
 4 Ringed by this cloud of witness divine, we feebly  
 5 And when the strife is fierce, the warfare long, steals on the

world their steadfast faith confessed, your name, O Je - sus,  
 hope that put their fears to flight; 'mid gloom and doubt, you  
 saints who nobly fought of old, and share with them a  
 strug - gle, they in glo - ry shine; yet in your love our  
 ear the dis - tant tri - umph song, then hearts are brave a -

be for - ev - er blessed.  
 were their one true light.  
 glo - rious crown of gold. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!  
 faith - ful lives en - twine.  
 gain, and faith grows strong.

*This traditional All Saints Day hymn originally consisted of eleven stanzas written for the Sarum Hymnal (1869) and set to a tune by that name, Sarum. It has grown in popularity since it was later paired with the enduring Sine Nomine in The English Hymnal (1906).*

Tune: SINE NOMINE 10.10.10.4.  
 Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906



# Come, Gather in This Special Place

335

Phil Porter, 1991

Unison Em D Em

1 & 4 Come, gath - er in this spe - cial place; the ta - ble here is  
 2 The grapes have yield - ed es - sence pure, a drink to quench the  
 3 The bread is fresh - ly baked to - day, a fra - grant feast of

CM7 D G Bm D Am Em

long and wide; For all who heed com - mu - nion's call, there's  
 grav - est thirst; The cup is passed from hand to hand, and  
 grain sup - plied; And e - ven crumbs that dust our palms will

C D Em

room for thou - sands side by side.  
 each will sense de - spair re - versed.  
 leave souls ful - ly sat - is - fied.

Elaine Kirkland and Phil Porter, both United Church of Christ artists, have been composing songs, hymns, and chants together since 1989. This is the first communion hymn they created, which appeared in their collection *Fire Will Shine*.

Tune: GATHER L.M.  
 Elaine Kirkland, 1991

# BLEST ARE THEY

David Haas

## Verses 1-3



1. Blest are they, the poor in spir - it, theirs is the  
2. Blest are they, the low - ly ones, they shall in -  
3. Blest are they \_\_\_\_\_ who show mer - cy, mer - cy



1. king - dom of God. Blest are they, \_\_\_\_\_  
2. her - it the earth. Blest are they who  
3. shall be theirs. Blest are they, the



1. full \_\_\_\_\_ of sor - row, they shall be \_\_\_\_\_ con-soled.  
2. hun-ger and thirst, they shall have \_\_\_\_\_ their fill.  
3. pure \_\_\_\_\_ of heart, they \_\_\_\_\_ shall see God!

## Refrain



Re-joice and be glad! Bless-ed are you, ho-ly are you! Re-




joice and be glad! Yours is the king-dom of God!

# God, We Thank You for Our People

376


Ruth Duck, 1986




1 God, we thank you for our peo-ple, roots dug deep with - in the soil,  
2 Thank you, God, for gen-tle plea-sure: les - sons learned and se-crets told,  
3 Still we must con-fess be - fore you, some-times, Sav - ior, we have failed;  
4 By your Spir - it of cre - a - tion keep us bold for risk-ing still,



har - dy spir - its, rich in lov - ing, strong for strug - gle, bold for toil.  
hopes and mem-ories saved as trea - sure, passed to young ones by the old,  
though we wor-ship and a - dore you, some-times love has not pre-vailed.  
ea - ger in an - ti - ci - pa - tion, ev - er strong to do your will.



Faith - ful Rock of gen - er - a - tions, you whom par - ents' par - ents praised:  
Pranks and glo-ries, songs and sto-ries, food by lov - ing hands pre-pared.  
Tem - pers rac-ing, dev - il chas-ing, hearts es - tranged by ice or flame  
Bind us close to one an - oth - er, shar-ing life and death and birth,



Here in hope as we re - mem-ber may our song to you be raised.  
God, we bless you for your pres - ence in our tears and laugh - ter shared.  
You trans-form by ways for - giv - ing. Grace a - maz-ing! Grace, your name!  
Wel-com - ing as sis - ter, broth-er, all your chil-dren on the earth.

Ruth Duck created this text at the request of Harold (Hal) McSwain, Jr., for a family reunion. She found her inspiration in the stories of Harold, Sr., and in her own family heritage. The hymn speaks to any community that has shared life together for a long time.

Tune: HOLY MANNA 8.7.8.7.D.  
William Moore, 1825